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NAVAJO LANGUAGE

Jesuits Fathers to Supply the Navajo Indians With a Written Language—The Work in Good Hands.

Some amusement has been caused at intervals in recent years, by the attempts of students from eastern colleges to compile a dictionary of the difficult Navajo language. Most of these jokes are pure fiction, though several spasmodic attempts to this end have been made. But it is not generally known at all, that there is now and has been for the past two years, a steady and earnest effort to supply the Navajos with a written language, and that within a year a lexicon may be an actual reality in print and ready for use, says the Monitor.

This work is in the hands of the men fitted above all others to undertake such a task: the four Jesuit Fathers of the mission of La Cienega, sixty miles north from Gallup, within the reservation.

For many years these four priests have lived in the little mission far from the beaten trail. They have worked long and faithfully among the Navajos, the tribe that has proved most stubborn in its refusal to give up its ancient rites for the Christian religion. All are familiar with the language as spoken by the Indians at the present day. In their long life among the red men they have delved deep into the traditions and myths and faiths of the Navajos, just as they have fathomed the Navajo character and learned how best to approach him. These men, then, propose to recreate the written language of the tribe; for that there was at one time a sign language among the Navajos is not doubted by the archaeologists who have studied the tribal traditions. There is a mythical story confused and sometimes unintelligible, among the Indians, of a series of signs written on stone and understood by the medicine men, the records of which were lost in some tribal movement from the northwest. Confused as it is with other traditions and myths, it still proves that sign writing in some form once existed in the great tribe. However, all trace of it is lost, and no Indian of the present day knows aught of writing beyond that taught him of English in the few schools of the reservation.

But the fathers at the mission have been working slowly and with all care for two years, verifying each word over and over again, proving and simplifying as best they can; and they have made progress so that now they expect within the year to be able to present to students a complete lexicon of the language and the rules that govern its use. It is difficult for the average American, unfamiliar with the peculiar jargon spoken by the tribe, to comprehend the enormous difficulties surrounding this task. The years of patient study and verification, the almost hopeless use of signs and innumerable inflections, the divergence and corruptions that have come into sections of the tribe long separated; the creeping in of Spanish and English words; the oftentimes widely different meaning given a word by men of different generations; yet travelers say that the fathers have never despaired and that now their work is nearing a successful end.

Christmas Services and Entertainments.

The Christmas entertainment of the Presbyterian Sunday school will be held in the church on Christmas eve. Special Christmas music is being prepared, and good progress has already been made. There will also be recitations by members of the school.

A treat will be given the school by the congregation. This will be arranged in a Christmas basket instead of on the usual Christmas tree.

A special feature of the evening will be the presentation of the school's gifts to increase the Christmas good cheer among those who otherwise might not have a very merry Christmas. These gifts, which are to range from turkeys to fruit, candy and toys, will be turned over to Santa Claus himself, for distribution after the entertainment is over.

All friends of the school are invited to come and enjoy the exercises of the evening.

A special Christmas service, under the auspices of the Young People's Society, will be held in the church on the evening of the Sunday following Christmas day. All are cordially invited to this service also. The offering that evening will be for mission work in foreign lands.

On Sunday morning in the Methodist church the Sunday school lesson will consist of a Christmas service, and the sermon by the pastor will be of the same nature. On Wednesday evening (Christmas eve) an unique service entitled, "The Brownies' Bridge," will be given in pantomime, preceded by several recitations and musical selections. Persons who desire to put gifts on the trees will have them at the church on Tuesday and Tuesday evening, as the committee will then be present to take charge of them.

A Horrible Murder.

At 6 p. m. on the 12th inst., at Cienega, Apache county, Arizona, thirty miles west of Gallup, N.M., the partly consumed headless body of Charles Kyle was found in the smoldering ruins of George Sampson's Indian trading store. No signs were found of the head, and it is thought that the man was murdered and the store robbed and fired. A half breed Indian interpreter by the name of Frank Walker is known to have been at the store that afternoon. The Drexel Indian school is less than two miles from the store. Sampson, who has five stores, was in Gallup. It is not known whether he carried insurance or not. Kyle was a young, unmarried German-American.

Women Prisoners Paroled.

Pearl Hart, the notorious female bandit and stage robber, was paroled Saturday last by Governor Brodie on the recommendation of the board of control and the superintendent of the territorial prison, the condition of the parole including an agreement on her part to make her residence outside the boundaries of Arizona till after the term of her sentence shall have expired. Rosa Duran, who was sent to the prison from Yavapai county, Nov. 15, 1903, for three years was also paroled. Her crime was grand larceny, more specifically described as rolling a man. There was similar recommendations to the governor also in her case.

MURDER, THEN SUICIDE

Al Cowles Murders John Kerwagen—Then Commits Suicide—The Tragedy Took Place Near Jerome.

The bloodiest tragedy in the history of Yavapai county took place Tuesday afternoon between five and six o'clock at the Kerwagen & Haskell ranch, three miles from Jerome. John Kerwagen, one of the proprietors of the ranch, was murdered by Al Cowles, an employe, who afterwards committed suicide.

Kerwagen and Cowles were in Jerome that afternoon and appeared to be good friends. They left town and stopping at the last saloon took a drink with the words, "Here's to each other." Neither was intoxicated. Arriving at the ranch they were met by Haskell, and Kerwagen went into the house to get supper. Haskell went some distance from the house to milk a cow. Soon after Cowles came to him and said, "Go up to the house and you will find a dead partner. He pulled my whiskers and ordered me around, so I killed the ———!" Haskell went to the house and found his partner lying on the floor dead with a bullet hole in his head back of the ear. He was holding a dish-cloth in his hand.

Cowles who had followed said to him, "Don't be afraid; I won't kill you. I'll saddle a horse for you so that you can go to town and tell them about it." He went away and Haskell fearing to await his return set out on foot and reached Jerome two hours after the tragedy. Several officers accompanied him back to the scene of the tragedy. Cowles was not in sight. The party visited his cabin three quarters of a mile distant. He was found lying on the floor with the top of his head blown off. He had used a shot gun placing the butt on the floor.

Cowles has been in the employ of Kerwagen & Haskell for thirteen years. There is at present no suggested motive for his crimes.

Kerwagen was one of the best known men in the territory. He had resided in this county for eighteen years. He was in business in Prescott some years ago and was representative from Yavapai in the territorial legislature four years ago.

The Richest University.

The endowment of Stanford University is greater than that of any other two institutions of learning in America—amounting to over \$30,000,000. It consists mainly of interest-bearing securities, and a landed endowment of over 100,000 acres. The Vina estate in Tehama county and the Gridley estate in Butte county are the largest tracts. In the erection of the university buildings it has never been necessary to touch the principal of this vast endowment. The interest has met all requirement.

The location of the university is ideal. The Santa Clara valley is, in climate and natural beauty, one of the most attractive portions of California. Is protected from fogs and winds of the coast, and yet is close enough to the sea to escape the summer heat of the interior. Over thirty thousand acres are included in the university estate.—Cecil Marrack, in Sunset Magazine.

Boiler Explodes.

Saturday morning last at 5:30 the boiler of engine 201 exploded at the west switch at Nelson, Arizona, killing Engineer Thomas Martin and Fireman Geo. N. VanAtta. The engine left here last night in charge of Engineer Martin pulling a special train of silk enroute east. The engine had been recently examined in the shops and shown to be in good condition. The cause of the explosion at the present writing is unknown. The shell of the boiler was found 400 feet from the track and beside it lay the body of Engineer Martin. Reports are meager as we go to press. Engineer Martin leaves a family consisting of a wife and three children. Fireman VanAtta lately came from San Bernardino and nothing is known of his relatives. The engine which met with the disaster was a new engine from the Salt Lake road, this being the first trip over the rails.—Needles Eye.

Winding Up Its Business.

Hon. Matt H. Reynolds, United States attorney of the court of private land claims, is in Washington to argue the last case before the supreme court involving grants for which the court of private land claims was organized to pass upon, being the grant containing 18,000 acres, upon which is situated the celebrated turquoise mine in Santa Fe county. The court has passed upon about 36,000,000 acres in Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, and about 2,000,000 acres have been confirmed. This throws open to settlement the remaining land passed upon and not confirmed. The court of private land claims expires by limitation June 30 next, and Mr. Reynolds says it will then have completely finished all business which it was created to transact. The court has been in existence since 1892.—Journal-Democrat.

Death of Mrs. U. S. Grant.

Mrs. Ulysses S. Grant died at her residence in Washington, D. C., on Sunday night, of heart failure.

Mrs. Grant had suffered for years of valvular disease of the heart which was aggravated of late by a severe attack of bronchitis—age preventing her from rallying from the attack. Her daughter, Nellie Grant Sartoris, was the only one of her children with her at the time of her death.

Julia Dent Grant was the daughter of General Dent of St. Louis where she was married. She survived her illustrious husband by seventeen years. Four children survive her, Mrs. Sartoris, General Frederick D. Grant, Ulysses Simpson Grant and Jesse Root Grant.

Election of Officers.

Flagstaff Lodge, No. 13, A.O.U.W. on Thursday elected the following officers for the ensuing term: P.M.W., R. L. Jennings; M. W., W. W. Williams; Foreman, G. N. Baty; Overseer, W. A. Switzer; Recorder, Scott T. Linn; Trustee, W. H. Norman; Guide, T. C. Fryer; Inside Watchman, George A. Rowe; Outside Watchman, M. T. Keirnan.

Degree of Honor, A.O.U.W., elected officers as follows: Past Chief of Honor, Mrs. A. A. Dutton; Chief of Honor, Mrs. T. C. Fryer; Lady of Honor, Mrs. W. H. Norman; Chief of Ceremonies, Mrs. P. R. Weatherford; Financier, Scott T. Linn; Receiver, J. C. Grim; Recorder, Margaret H. Wallace; Lady Usher, Mrs. J. C. Grim; Inside Watch, Mrs. L. E. Hart; Outside Watch, J. C. Williams; trustee, A. N. Taylor.